

REMARKS

Applicant proposes amendments to the Title, specification and the addition of a new set of claims 14-23.

The amendments are more than adequately supported by our specification and drawings which, as one illustrative example can be found in Paragraph [0050] of our description as follows:

More specifically, if, for example, a defective cluster is newly detected in the user data area 6, the defect entry adding unit 24 adds a defect entry corresponding to the newly detected defective cluster to a plurality of defect entries stored in the control memory 23. Further, according to the defective cluster position information included in the defect entry, the defect entry adding unit 24 sorts defect entries, and increases the number of defect entries by "1".

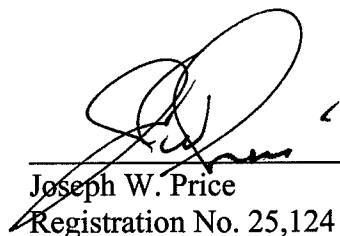
The TDFL conversion unit 25 arranges (i) defect entries concerning defective areas detected in the latest record process, and (ii) defect entries concerning defective areas detected in the other previous record processes, in the ascending order of the addresses of the defective areas indicated by these defect entries, and converts the arranged defect entries into "TDFLs".

It is requested that the references cited in the PCT examination be reviewed and made of record.

If there any questions with regards to the prosecution of the application, the undersigned attorney can be contacted at the listed telephone number.

Very truly yours,

SNELL & WILMER L.L.P.



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